



PRESS RELEASE

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Idaho Potato Stocks Down 18 Percent from Last Year

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers, and processors in Idaho on April 1 totaled 42.5 million cwt, 9.50 million cwt less than on hand April 1, 2005. Disappearance, at 74.5 million cwt, is down from last year's 80.0 million cwt. Stocks in the 10 Southwest counties totaled 2.40 million cwt, down from last year's revised 3.10 million cwt. The Other counties' stocks, at 40.1 million cwt, were 8.80 million cwt less than the amount stored on April 1, 2005. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon used 7.42 million cwt of 2005 crop raw potatoes during March, up 16 percent from last year. For the 2005 crop, processors have used a total of 50.2 million cwt to April 1, down 2 percent from last year. Idaho potatoes accounted for 44.5 million cwt of the total processed. The remaining 5.73 million cwt were produced in other states.

Nationally, the 13 major potato States held 114 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2006, down 11 percent from last year and 9 percent below April 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 31 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from last year. Disappearance of 259 million cwt of potatoes is down 5 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 21.6 million cwt so far this season, is down 20 percent from last year for comparable States. Processors in the 9 major States have used 133 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 2 percent from a year ago and 3 percent below two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 27.2 million cwt of the total processing, down 9 percent from last year and 10 percent below the same date in 2004.

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